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Bromyard Rural District

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1943

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
(On War Service from 17/7/42)

Acting Medical Officer of Health I. F. MACKENZIE, M.B., Ch.B.,
(Deputy County Medical Officer) D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Private Tele., Weobley 59)

Area Medical Offices : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95)

Clerk in Northern Area Medical Office B. J. SCANDRETT
(On War Service from 1939)

Temporary Clerk MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor T. S. WATTS, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.,
(Part-time) Cert. Meat Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1943.

Throughout the year the health of the community has continued to be remarkably good and no major outbreaks of notifiable or non-notifiable disease occurred.

Your Sanitary Inspector and I maintain close co-operation on all matters affecting the health of the community. I am happy to acknowledge again my appreciation of the thorough manner in which he discharges the duties of his position, for this contributes, in no small measure, to the effective execution, under war-time conditions, of the Health Services of the Council.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE,
Acting Medical Officer.

May, 1944.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in Acres)	61,000
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to the Rate Book	2,018
Rateable Value	£16,831
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£76 6 5

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated population)	18.8
STILLBIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still births)	40.3
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	10.7
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	41.9
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES: One death attributable to puerperal infection occurred during 1943.	

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1943:—

Birth Rate	16.5
Still Birth Rate	0.5
Death Rate	12.1
Infantile Mortality Rate	49.0

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which, for the duration of the war, is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS.

There are no Clinics provided by the Authority.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Council Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. T. S. Watts, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Most supplies are privately owned and consist largely of wells. Routine samples are taken from time to time and at the request of users. A piped supply has been provided to six Council houses at Pencombe and Wolferlow during the year. This is the only piped supply owned by the Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The only sewer vested in the Council is that serving Bishops Frome Village. The sewer outfall is at a ditch on the Ledbury/Bromyard road. The nuisance caused by the sewage has been abated by cleaning out the ditch, which continues to receive attention when labour is available.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution have been received during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

There is no organised refuse collection in the District and no request for collection has been made. Two complaints regarding the dumping of refuse were received. Notice boards prohibiting further deposit were erected.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS :				No. of Inspections	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health							
Acts	...	...	...	192	11	1	12
Factories	...	...	...	23	1	0	1
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	321	15	0	15
Schools	...	...	...	22	1	1	1
Water Supplies	...	...	...	27	5	0	5
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	31	0	0	0
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	29	1	1	0
Complaints	...	...	...	7	2	0	2
Hop-Pickers' Quarters	...	...	...	160	12	1	12

NOTICES ISSUED.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	1	Drains re-laid	...	...	...	4
Roofs	...	...	...	9	New Drains	...	...	...	6
Gutters	...	...	...	9	New Sinks	...	...	...	8
Floors	...	...	...	17	New W.C. Pans	...	...	...	12
Drains cleared	...	...	...	4	Flushing Cisterns	...	...	...	12

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none within the area.

FACTORIES.

(a) With Mechanical Power.		(b) Without Mechanical Power.	
No. of Inspections	...	...	18
Notices served	...	...	Nil
New P.C. provided	...	...	1

CAMPING SITES.

Three camping sites in the District are licenced. A good water supply is laid on and adequate sanitary accommodation is provided. No complaints were received.

BED BUGS.

No reports of bed bug infestation were received.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	71
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	192
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, fit for human habitation	12

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
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Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:—

(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

VAN DWELLINGS.—No cases of vans overstaying the statutory period were noted.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Samples of Designated milk are taken quarterly on behalf of the County Council. Three T.T. Licences and 16 Accredited Licences were issued by the County Council during the year.

Four cowsheds were repaired or improved during the year.

321 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Butchers' shops throughout the district were regularly inspected. Complaints concerning one shop were received and as a result of representation to the owner the premises have ceased to be used as a butcher's shop.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

No foods were condemned during the year.

HOP-PICKERS' QUARTERS.

The Hop-pickers' quarters in the District were inspected, and 160 visits were made.

The quarters in most cases were satisfactory. On two farms, however (which are both under the same ownership), conditions were found to be very bad. The Council decided to institute proceedings. The grower was fined £2 on each of the following charges and £5 5s. costs : (1) Failure to provide suitable refuse receptacles; (2) Failure to provide sanitary accommodation ensuring individual privacy for women; (3) Failure to provide suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation.

In another instance a grower has been warned.

All growers were provided with a copy of the Bye-laws together with a circular letter indicating that the Council expected rigid adherence to the provisions.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications of Infectious Disease received during 1943 numbered 58, the majority of which again were in respect of measles. There were 26 instances of this disease.

Seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever occurred and one person suffered from Diphtheria during the period under review.

The remainder of the notifications related to Pneumonia (eight cases), Erysipelas (two cases), and Whooping Cough (three cases). There was one case of Puerperal Pyrexia but none of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.

DISEASE

AGE OF PATIENT

	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40	Over known	T.P.	
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	1	1	1	2	4	5	1	—	1	—	—	1	17
Acute Primary Pneumonia	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	3	—	8	
Measles	1	2	2	—	3	3	1	2	4	4	4	—	26	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Whooping Cough	...	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1943 is indicated in the table below.

Number	Percentage of group	Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age	
		Number	Percentage of group	Number	Percentage of group
186	30.8%	762	50.5%		

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1943 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 17 males and 14 females who normally reside within the district. During the year fourteen new cases were notified; eleven on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period three deaths of persons suffering from this disease occurred.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

DISEASE		Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis	...	1	2	3
Influenza	...	3	1	4
Measles	...	1	0	1
Whooping Cough	...	1	0	1
Cancer (all forms)	...	7	7	14
Heart and Blood Vessels	...	19	12	31
Syphilitic Diseases	...	1	0	1
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	8	1	9
Acute Enteritis	...	1	0	1
Diseases of Digestive System	...	1	2	3
Nephritis	...	3	1	4
Congenital Conditions	...	2	1	3
Maternal Causes	...	0	1	1
Other Causes	...	3	2	5
TOTALS	...	51	30	81